

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 TRSE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 /053 W

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R 171530Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4761

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, WB, GW, UK, FR, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM-BRITISH AIRWAYS FARE INCREASE

REF: A. 74 BONN 10581 B. 74 BONN 11831

C. 76 BONN 17609 D. BONN 725

1. GOING BACK TO 1974 THE FRG THROUGH THE BERLIN CIVIL AIR TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY GROUP (BCATAG) AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS REQUESTED STATISTICS ON INNER GERMAN SERVICES (IGS) AIRLINES REVENUE AND EXPENSES. THESE STATISTICS WERE TO BE SUBMITTED ON A PERIODIC BASIS UNRELATED TO AIRLINE REQUESTS FOR FARE INCREASES SO THAT THE FRG COULD STUDY THE STATISTICS IN A REASONABLY DELIBERATE MANNER AND BE BETTER ABLE TO ADVISE ON FARE INCREASE PROPOSALS WHEN THEY WERE MADE.

2. THE MATTER WAS REVIVED IN JULY 1976 BY THE UK CAA AND SINCE HAS BEEN VIGOROUSLY PURSUED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE, MOST RECENTLY AT A BCATAG MEETING ON JANUARY 14. THE CAA'S HAVE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE DESIRABILITY
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OF PROVIDING STATISTICS AND HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO ASK THE AIRLINES TO CONSULT ON WAYS TO MAKE A USEFUL JOINT PRESENTATION.

3. THE AIRLINES AGREED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE THE REQUESTED STATISTICS AND APPARENTLY HAVE HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS ON THE MATTER. IT NOW APPEARS, HOWEVER,

THAT A NEW FARE INCREASE APPLICATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING
EITHER BEFORE OR AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PRESENTATION
OF STATISTICS. THE EMBASSY HAS URGED PAN AMERICAN TO
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROVIDE STATISTICS WELL IN ADVANCE
OF A FARE INCREASE APPLICATION AND HAS EXPRESSED OUR
CONCERN TO THE UK CAA THAT BA COOPERATE TOWARD THIS
END.

4. FARE INCREASES ARE UNPOPULAR WITH THE FRG AND THE
BERLIN SENAT AND PRESS IN THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
COMING SO SOON AFTER LAST SPRING'S REQUEST, A NEW PRO-
POSAL THIS SPRING WILL BE ESPECIALLY RESISTED BY THE
GERMAN SIDE. IF EXPERT ANALYSIS OF THE 1976 FIGURES
INDICATES THE NECESSITY OF AN INCREASE, WE ARE PREPARED
TO APPROVE IT DESPITE GERMAN RESENTMENT. WE WOULD,
HOWEVER, LIKE TO AVOID THE ADDED INSULT OF FAILING TO
DELIVER ON WHAT AMOUNTS TO A COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE
REQUESTED STATISTICAL INFORMATION BEFORE
TELLING THE BCATAG THAT WE ARE APPROVING A NEW FARE
INCREASE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT
CONTACT PAN AM AND EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF PRESENTATION
OF STATISTICS TO THE CAA'S FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE FRG
A REASONABLE TIME IN ADVANCE OF ITS NEXT APPLICATION FOR
A FARE INCREASE.
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